

**ARIZONA FIRE & MEDICAL AUTHORITY
GOVERNANCE & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS / AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Committee Chairperson Kohler called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. at the **Arizona Fire & Medical Authority Administrative Office, 18818 N. Spanish Garden Drive, Sun City West, Arizona 85375.**

Members Present: Committee Chairperson Forrest Kohler and Committee Member David Wilson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Fire Chief Robert Biscoe, Assistant Chief Mary Dalton, Legal & Intergovernmental Affairs Director Lee Miller, and Authority Clerk Dusty Christopherson

Legal Counsel: N/A

Public Comment: None

Media Present: None

Guests Present: North County Fire & Medical District Board Member Richard Bookie

2. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approve Governance & Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2019.

Committee Member Wilson moved that the Governance & Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2019 be approved. Committee Chairman Kohler seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Kohler, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

B. Receive update on Arizona Fire District Association (AFDA) 2020 Legislative priorities.

Mary Dalton, Assistant Chief stated that the upcoming legislative session is expected to be a short busy session given the election year. Assistant Chief Dalton stated that the Arizona Fire District Association (AFDA) has set its legislative priorities for the upcoming session. Which include focusing on Fire District revenue streams, long term pension funding, worker's compensation coverage and mergers and consolidations.

AFDA is not currently planning to pursue any new legislation relating to emergency medical services or ambulance operations but will take a defensive role on any proposed legislation that would seek to impede on Fire Districts' abilities to perform ambulance operations within their boundaries or provide interfacility transports.

In response to inquiries, Assistant Chief Dalton explained that there are several reasons for the current situation with pension liabilities, including the use of an outdated mortality table for members, a too high rate of return on investments, and a too high projected growth rate following the recession, to name just a few.

C. Discuss Arizona Fire & Medical Authority (AFMA) 2020 Annexation and Legislative Strategies.

Assistant Chief Dalton stated that the Planning Services Section and Lee Miller, Legal & Intergovernmental Affairs Director will be cooperating to reach out to large property owners adjacent to the Authority and encourage them to annex into the Authority.

In response to inquiries, Mr. Miller explained that large utility companies are overseen by the Arizona Corporation Commission and are centrally assessed by the Arizona Department of Revenue.

Committee Members expressed concern relating to the safety of solar facilities and their battery storage systems located across the Authority and the tax rates charged to solar companies to cover the unique challenges posed by these facilities.

D. Discuss conducting a North County Fire & Medical District and South County Fire & Medical District local annual meeting.

Assistant Chief Dalton stated that South County Fire & Medical District Board Member Diane Price spoke at the AFMA Governing Board meeting on October 22, 2019 requesting to hold one public meeting of the South County Fire & Medical District in the Sun Lakes area each year.

Chief Biscoe stated that Staff is exploring options to hold a joint public meeting in each jurisdiction in late spring each year to coincide with the annual budget hearings so that residents are afforded the opportunity to hear the budget presentations and provide input.

Committee Members expressed support for holding an annual meeting in each local jurisdiction of the Authority and expressed a desire to ensure broad communication about the meeting to encourage maximum public participation.

3. **SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDAS**

There were no suggested items.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

William Becker

[William Becker \(Feb 24, 2021 16:47 MST\)](#)

Bill Becker, Committee Chairperson


November 12 2019 Minutes - Governance and Legislative Committee Meeting


Final Audit Report


2021-02-24


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By:	Dusty Christopherson (dchristopherson@afma.az.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAw5HQx-8LPnVs-0KDgi_vpRGUw-rLXn9m


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